

**IN THE CLAIMS**

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***Please amend claims 1 to read as follows:***

Ε' 1. (Amended) An improved composition for physiological applications, said composition containing hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution, the improvement comprising a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose solution free of harmful particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter, said viscoelastic solution having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps, an average molecular weight in excess of 250,000 Daltons and being pyrogen free and non-toxic when a therapeutically effective amount of said solution is injected into a human body. *misspelled*

✓  
***Please amend claim 13 to read as follows:***

Ε' 13. (Thrice amended) A process for preparing a viscoelastic solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution, the composition having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps and being free of harmful particulate material and gels greater than 0.5 μm in diameter and being pyrogen free and non-toxic when a therapeutically effective amount of said solution is injected into a human eye, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) dispersing the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in the salt solution to form a suspension,
- b) heating the suspension of step (a) to about 95°C., allowing any undissolved material to settle and discarding the supernatant liquid above the undissolved material,
- c) resuspending the undissolved material to form a second suspension of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and heating the second suspension to form a thick gel,

- d) filtering the gel through a series of filters to form a clean solution,  
 e) autoclaving the clean solution,  
 f) cooling the autoclaved clean solution and filtering the cooled solution, and  
 g) degassing the filtered cooled solution.

missing deleted text

**Please amend claim 25 to read as follows:**

25. (Amended) A viscoelastic composition for injection into a human eye, the viscoelastic composition comprising hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in a physiological salt solution,  
 the hydroxypropylmethylcellulose having an average molecular weight greater than about 375,000 but less than about 420,000 and being present in a concentration from about 2.0% to about 2.5%,  
 the composition having a viscosity from about 25,000 centipoise to about 40,000 centipoise being free of harmful particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and being pyrogen free and nontoxic.

**Please amend claim 27 to read as follows:**

27. (Twice Amended) A process of preparing a sterile solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose in an aqueous solution, the sterile solution having a zero shear viscosity in excess of 15,000 cps and being non-toxic, non-pyrogenic, and substantially free of particulate matter and gels greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and harmful to the human eye, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) dispersing hydropropylmethylcellulose in a first part of the aqueous solution to form a suspension;